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Goschka: No Way Out for Sex Offenders

Senator proposes ending statute of limitations for sex crimes

LANSING – Sex offenders – particularly pedophiles – would not be able to hide their crimes from the law simply because a certain amount of time had elapsed, if legislation introduced today becomes law.

“Senate Bill 633 would allow prosecutors to pursue criminal charges against sex offenders regardless of the date of their offense,” said state Sen. Mike Goschka, R-Brant, the sponsor of the legislation. “Children are often intimidated and controlled by their pedophile attackers. Even as they become young adults, victims of pedophilia can be overcome with feelings of shame, guilt and embarrassment, so much so, that they may not disclose the attack until decades after it took place. Hence, under current law, the pedophile gets away with the crime.”

Goschka said revelations of widespread sex abuse of young boys by priests has brought awareness of the problem to lawmakers, whom he urged to act quickly.

“I want to ensure the safety of all children by making available to the criminal justice system the tools that are necessary not only to protect against further abuse, but to punish those who have attacked children any time, any where,” Goschka said. “The longer we allow pedophiles to walk our streets simply because a certain amount of time has elapsed since they committed a crime, the more potential abuse awaits innocent children. Simply put, this legislation allows justice to come to those who have repressed their victimization for perhaps decades, and pedophiles will most assuredly know that they can be prosecuted at any time, regardless of when they committed their horrendous crime.”